

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 3, after the title, please insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, as follows:

The invention relates to a device for applying a ventrally or dorsally directed translatory force onto a lower leg in the area of a knee joint for treatment or follow-up treatment of knee instability, in particular cruciate ligament instability, ~~as set forth in the preamble of claim 1.~~

Page 2, line 34, please insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4, as follows:

According to the invention, this object is achieved by the ~~features of claim 1.~~

~~Advantageous embodiments of the invention are described in the subsequent claims described herein.~~

Page 5, line 22, please insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 6, line 30, please insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 29, as follows:

Figures 2a to 2c show a thigh bar 6 which can be secured on the thigh 1 by means of a cuff 7. The cuff 7 is expediently made up of a half-shell which is placed on the front of the thigh and which can be fixed on the thigh 1 by means of straps 8 which are guided ~~round-around~~ the back of the thigh and have velcro-type fasteners. In the distal end area of the thigh bar 6, located

laterally alongside the knee joint, a shorter bar arm 9 and a longer bar arm 10 extending in the direction of the lower leg 3 are mounted so as to be able to swivel.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 20, as follows:

As can be seen from Figures 2a to 2c, the distal end of the shorter bar arm 9 is coupled to a bolt 15 which protrudes laterally outward from the fixation device 12 in the end area of said the fixation device 12 close to the knee. For this purpose, the shorter bar arm 9 has an oblong hole 16 into which the bolt 15 engages. The bar arm 9 is thus guided in a longitudinally displaceable manner on the bolt 15 by means of this oblong hole 16.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 37, as follows:

As will be seen from Figures 3 and 4, a spring in the form of a flat coil spring 29 is arranged inside the spring housing 19, this spring being used to generate a pretensioning force acting between the shorter bar arm 9 and the longer bar arm 10. As will be explained in more detail below, this flat coil spring 29 cooperates with a toothed wheel gear which is likewise arranged inside the spring housing 19 and which is made up of a central toothed wheel 30 and of a peripheral driving toothed wheel 31 of smaller diameter meshing with said the toothed wheel 30. The central toothed wheel 30, which is shown in more detail in Figures 6a and 6b, has a central, axial protrusion 32 which, along most of its length, i.e. in the area 33, has a square cross section on the outside. The end area 34 of the protrusion 32 is, by contrast, cylindrical on the outside and serves as a rotation bearing for the longer bar arm 10 (see Figure 10). The bar arm 10, which extends through a recess in the circumferential wall of the spring housing 19, is thus able to swivel about the protrusion 32.